

Serial No.: 10/806,248
Confirmation No.: 1774
Applicant: SIGL, Marcus
Atty. Ref.: 54401

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 and claim 8, cancel claim 7 and 9 and add claims 10 - 15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing alkylamines by ~~reacting~~ reaction of olefins with ammonia, primary or secondary amines under hydroaminating conditions over a calcined zeolitic catalyst, having increased activity when used within 24 hours of ~~wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst is thermally activated~~ thermal activation at from 100°C to 550°C in a gaseous stream of air, nitrogen, other inert gases or mixtures thereof ~~not more than 24 hours before commencement of the reaction~~ to provide an improved yield of alkylamines.
2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst is thermally activated not more than 6 hours before commencement of the reaction.
3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermal activation is carried out in the amination reactor.
4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst has not been deactivated by a hydroamination prior to the thermal activation.
5. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zeolitic catalyst is selected from among faujasites, erionite, chabazite, mordenite, offretite, clinoptilolite, pentasils, beta-zeolites and boron-containing gallium-containing or titanium-containing forms thereof and also mixtures thereof.

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6. (Allowed) A method of increasing the hydroamination activity of calcined zeolitic catalysts which have not been deactivated by a hydroamination by thermal treatment of the calcined zeolitic catalysts at from 100 to 550°C in a gaseous stream of air, nitrogen, other inert gases or mixtures thereof.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst has ~~not~~ never been in a hydroamination prior to the thermal activation.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the calcined zeolitic catalyst is thermally activated immediately before commencement of the reaction.
11. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the thermal activation continues for a time from about 3 hours to about 50 hours.
12. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the thermal activation continues for a time from about 10 hours to about 25 hours.
13. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the thermal activation proceeds at a pressure from about 0.5 bar to about 100 bar.
14. (New) The process of claim 13, wherein the thermal activation proceeds at a pressure from about 1.0 bar to about 50 bar.

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15. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the improved yield of alkylamines is from about 0.5 mole percent to about 3.0 mole percent.